

THE SEANCE ROOM.

WE publish in this issue of the *Journal* a photograph (Plate 1) of the interior of the new Séance Room, in which over forty sittings have already been held. (For plan, see *Journal*, November 1923, p. 151.)

At the extreme right is the note-taker's chair, and in front of it, the note-taker's table, on which are two rheostats for the central inverted bowl lights and a box for taking notes, internally illuminated through ruby glass. A little to the front and to the left of the table is the gramophone, and behind it, a camera on tripod. Above the camera and to the right are two black switches, a maximum and minimum thermometer, and, just above, a double lamp bracket, with one of the bulbs enclosed in a ruby shade. A similar attachment can be seen on the left hand wall and both of these brackets are controlled separately by sliding rheostats, one of which can be seen a little beneath and to the left of the thermometer. Each rheostat is fitted with a sliding scale attachment.

The cabinet curtains are black satin and slide on rollers along a bow-shaped bar from corner to corner. Just within the cabinet can be seen the medium's chair in the centre, a little table for experiments, and in the ceiling one of the hooks for suspending scales. In front of the cabinet stands the magnesium light apparatus, which is smokeless and adjustable.

The inverted bowl fitting, suspended from the ceiling just by the air grid, has been specially designed for this room and provides upward and downward motion, the bowl itself being detachable by means of two bayonet catches. Within the bowl, which is enamelled white inside, are four lamps on a separately-wired double series, two being of ruby glass and two of white glass, and all controlled at three different points in the room.

Just behind the arm-chair to the left is the sliding shutter which covers the window and effectually excludes light. Heating is provided by a couple of electric radiators, one of which can be seen behind the note-taker's table. As fresh air enters, stale air is drawn out through the central grid in the ceiling by means of an electric fan outside the room.

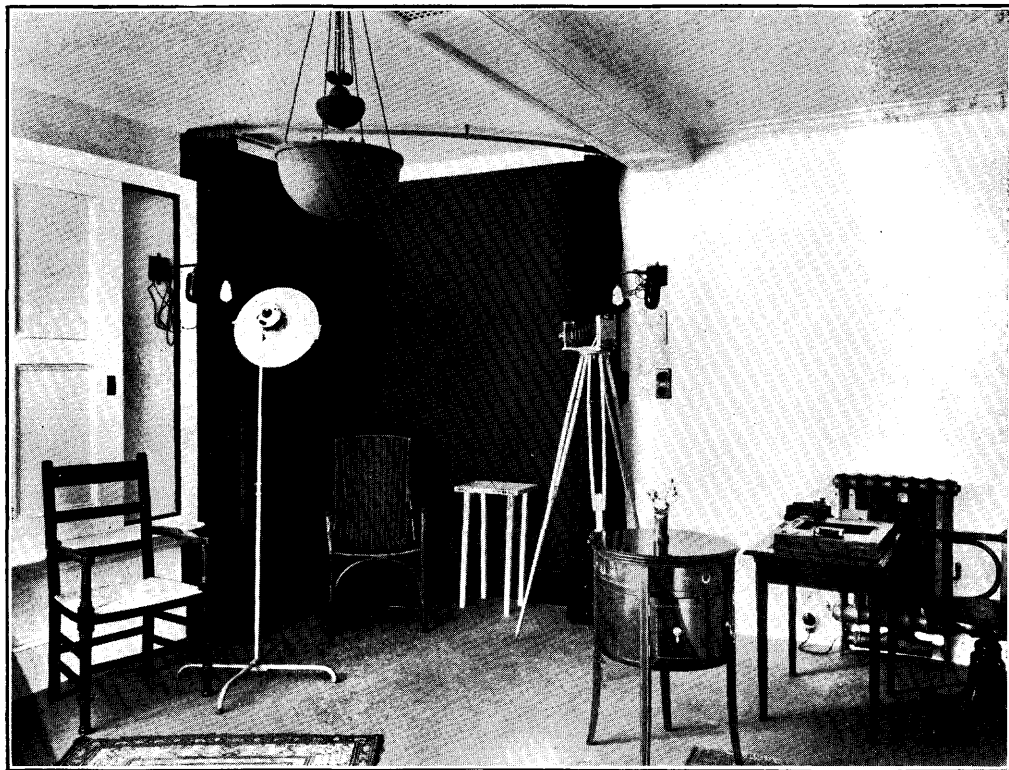


PLATE 1.



PLATE 2.

CASES.

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I.

A DREAM PREMONITION OF A PHOTOGRAPHIC PHENOMENON.

THE following case is especially interesting as apparently an incident promised in a dream was fulfilled at a later period through the phenomenon of a photographic "extra" occurring upon an exposed plate. The case has been known to us for some considerable time, and late in 1922, when the Society's Research Officer, Mr. Dingwall, was preparing a general report on psychic photography, it was decided to include this together with several others as deserving especial attention. Circumstances, however, made it impossible to carry out this scheme,¹ and this case therefore is printed separately as it stands; it is hoped to publish another one of equal interest in due course. Mr. Dingwall has had a considerable correspondence with Lady Grey, who is the principal witness in the case. At his request she very kindly drew up the following statement concerning the occurrence. The Society possesses copies of the statements made by Lady Grey's sons to whom she related the content of her dream.

WILSFORD MANOR,
SALISBURY.

Jan. 29, [1923].

DEAR MR. DINGWALL,

The sequence of dates and events in the case of the Hand-Photograph is as follows. I first heard of the Crewe Circle in the winter of 1916. In the summer of 1917 I went to Crewe, Mr. Hope knowing my name, and I obtained photographs that showed "extra spirits," but nothing that we recognised as my son. I was naturally disappointed, but extremely interested, as we thought we recognised two of the faces; and the Crewe Circle had impressed me favourably, appearing honest, and showing no curiosity; they asked no questions, and I had brought my own plates, signed them, and placed them in the slide. On my return home, and later in the summer, I had a dream, in which my son said that he would go to Crewe with me and stand behind me, putting his hand on my left shoulder; and he would try to get

¹ See *Journal*, May 1923, p. 82; July 1923, 111-114.

photographed doing this. My younger son, at my wish, wrote this down, and in October he and I went to Crewe. Mr. Hope knew nothing of my dream; the sitting took place exactly as the previous one had, and the photograph of a hand on my shoulder was on one of the six plates exposed on that occasion.¹ Again I had brought my own plates.

Apart from the spiritistic hypothesis, it is interesting as evidence of some kind of supernormal activity. Perhaps it is a good case of thought photography, for it followed my dream; and possibly the boy's presence helped, he having written down the dream and standing as witness to it. As an argument in favour of Hope, if we take it as spirit photography, it may be said that had he been fraudulent on this occasion it is a series of young men's faces he would have tried to show on the plates, and not a hand. Further, as there was a considerable lapse of time between my first sitting with him in July 1917 and my next in October of that year, he had ample opportunity to equip himself with some photograph of my soldier son's face, either from the Press or some photographer, to work from fraudulently to this end.

There still stands, however, the objection that you may bring forward that, having told my family of my dream, I may have told it to Hope. You have only my word that I did not do so, but one might say against this that the bare fact of my having taken the precaution to get my younger son to write the dream down and date it, in the case of our obtaining good results at Crewe, is in itself some testimony to my anxiety to see this matter through in order and with care. .

I did not want Hope to know anything about my dream, so that his conscious mind might not bias the result, even though it were supernormally, for I was eager for the facts to support the authenticity of my dream.

It seems to me a case of interest, whether it stands either for thought-photography or spirit-return.

As an argument for thought-photography we cannot close our minds to the possibility of my own conscious mind and that of my younger son influencing results, though supernormally.

On the other hand, I have another experience that came through

¹ Plate 2 shows the result of the sitting with apparently a left hand and wrist resting upon Lady Grey's left shoulder.

the channel of a dream that would stand in support of the spiritistic hypothesis. The thing is strengthened by my son having known in Earth-life of my psychic dreams. This experience I speak of is recorded in the *Earthen Vessel*, the book-test known as the Ecclesiasticus Book-test.¹ You will find it in the index of the book. Please look it up, if it is not too much trouble? I think it provides unusually good evidence, cunningly contrived to meet the objection of telepathy from the living.

I hope you will forgive my writing at such length, but I think you should know all there is about this case.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) PAMELA GREY.

II.

L. 1260. A REMARKABLE CASE OF VISION OF THE DYING.

BY SIR WILLIAM BARRETT, F.R.S.

THE evidence of Visions of the Dying, when they appear to see and recognize some of their relatives of whose decease they were unaware, affords perhaps one of the strongest arguments in favour of survival. I have given some striking instances of these visions of the dying in my book, *On the Threshold of the Unseen*, and other cases will be found in the *Proceedings* of our Society. Even Prof. Richet states that he regards these facts as very important, and more explicable by the spiritist theory than by cryptæsthesia, and he adds that "Among all the facts adduced to prove survival, these [visions of the dying] seem to me to be the most disquieting," i.e. from his own (materialistic) point of view.

We must, however, remember that *hallucinations* of the dying are not infrequent. *Expectancy* may possibly account for these; the dying person being under the hallucination he or she has seen some deceased relatives. Hence the chief evidential value of these visions depends on conclusive proof that the dying person was *wholly ignorant* of the decease of the person he or she saw. The importance of the case I am about to narrate is enhanced, from the extraordinary care taken to prevent any knowledge of the illness or death

¹See *The Earthen Vessel*, p. 79.